The Cleveland Museum of Art prepares for the 20th year of Parade the Circle by offering workshops

Create parade costumes, masks and giant puppets beginning May 1

CLEVELAND (April 3, 2009) – Parade the Circle celebrates its 20th year in 2009, and the Cleveland Museum of Art will again offer workshops for participants to prepare for the annual cultural and artistic parade at University Circle.

With Parade the Circle scheduled for Noon on Saturday, June 13 on Wade Oval, participants can develop their mask making, costume and large-scale construction skills over a month in advance. Basic workshops, along with special workshops, are open to the public. This year's theme will be *Chiaroscuro: Beguiling the Penumbra.* This year's theme is *Chiaroscuro: Beguiling the Penumbra.* Chiaroscuro illuminates the myriad ways artists render contrasts of light and shadow in a creative work. Whether exploring light and shadow, the interplay of dissimilar elements or what exists in partial shadow, within chiaroscuro lies the penumbra, the area between light and shadow.

The penumbra also refers to that which cannot be defined as either real or fantasy; it is the area where dreams, daydreams, our muses and inspirations reside. One of the most difficult challenges an artist faces is to draw out the essence of an inspiration and develop it into a sculpture, painting, poem, dance or parade ensemble. Each creative individual must "beguile the penumbra" in their own unique way.

Public workshop passes will allow people to work on parade entries at workshops held on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays throughout May and June. An individual pass costs $50. A family pass is $150 for up to four people, $25 for each additional family member. Although workshops are open to all ages, children under the age of 15 must register and be accompanied by an adult. Parade entry is included in this registration fee. Group rates and scholarship assistance are available.

Staff artists are in attendance at basic workshops to help participants make creative masks, costumes and puppets out of materials such as papier-mâché, cloth and recycled materials. The exact times and dates for the basic workshops are:

- 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Fridays, starting May 1 through June 12
- 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays, starting May 2 through June 6
- 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Sundays, starting May 3 through June 7

Several special workshops on stilt walking will also be offered in anticipation of Parade the Circle. Canadian stilters Brad Harley and Rick Simon return to CMA on Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17 for Stilt Weekend. Try walking on stilts either day between 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. These sessions are free and open to the public, but priority will be given to pass holders. All participants must be at least 10-years-old. Passholders may only order stilts during stilt weekend for $50. After safety training, participants may keep the stilts.

Workshops on stilt-dancing for paraders will take place over the course of three weekends. Novice stilt dancers are invited to attend on Saturday, May 23 through Saturday, June 6. Advanced stilt dancers on Sunday, May 24 through Sunday, June 7. Workshops on both Saturday and Sunday will be held from 1:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. These sessions on learning stilt safety, tying and the art of dancing on stilts are free with a workshop pass.

Registration for the workshops or for participation in Parade the Circle can be done during any listed workshop. The cost to join the Parade is $6. Registration must be in by Sunday, May 24 to be listed in the printed program. Questions on Parade the Circle can be answered by calling (216) 707-2483 or E-mail neisenberg@clevelandart.org.

Parade the Circle is a free community arts parade that is presented annually by the Cleveland Museum of Art. It starts at the Cleveland Museum of Art and proceeds in a counter-clockwise circle along Wade Oval Drive and East Boulevard. Circle Village, which includes the activities, entertainment and food, is presented by University Circle Inc. and will run from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the day of Parade the Circle. No written words, logos, motorized vehicles (except wheelchairs) or live entries are allowed in the Parade. Entries should not propagandize a particular political or religious belief.

###